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**McLaughlin, James.** *My Friend the Indian.* Pp. xi, 416. Price, \$2.50. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin Company, 1910.

All who are interested in that race of men which has been displaced by white men "in carrying out the immutable law of the survival of the fittest," in the development of American civilization, will welcome this book from the pen of James McLaughlin, who for thirty-eight years has lived among the red men of the Northwest, serving as Indian agent at the Devil's Lake and Standing Rock reservations from 1871 to 1895 and as United States Indian Inspector from 1895 to the present. Perhaps no other man has been instrumental in carrying through so many "treaties" and "agreements" with the Indians. To him also the government is indebted for much of the improvement in the conduct of Indian affairs.

The book is written chiefly in autobiographical style, which gives a vividness to his narrative which far surpasses that of the mere descriptive historian. The story is told largely from the Indian's point of view, especially such events as the annihilation of Custer's troops at the battle of the Little Big Horn, which he declares to have been "Not a massacre, but a battle."

The scant appreciation which the author has for the work of ethnologists who have studied tribal life among the Indians should not detract from the value of the ethnological and sociological material which he furnishes. His work abounds in interesting descriptions of Indian village life, social and religious customs, dances, family organization, etc. His frank criticism of the government in its treaty-breaking policy and its paternalism, and his plea for "giving the Red man his portion," will be read with great interest by all who seek the Indian's good. Perhaps the title, "My Friend the Sioux," would have been a little more appropriate for a volume dealing almost wholly with the Indians of the Dakotas.

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**Odum, H. W.** *Social and Mental Traits of the Negro.* Pp. 302. New York: Longmans, Green & Co., 1910.

Purporting to be based upon a special inquiry, this study is distinctly disappointing. In style it is rambling and verbose, with constant repetition. In few places is concrete evidence given, while chapter after chapter is couched in the general terms so characteristic of most discussions of the Negro. The author is capable of better work. Hailing from Mississippi, he is evidently very familiar with many phases of Negro life, is friendly in his attitude, and gives reason to hope that future studies will avoid the generalities so conspicuous in this study.

The schools, the church, fraternal orders, home life, crime, social status, relation of emotions to conduct make up the bulk of the volume, to which is added "An Estimate of the Negro" which is really a discussion of the economic situation.

Dr. Odum believes that the first thing is to understand the Negro. He  
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